

a thumb actuator operative to cause opening of said outlet valve and axial movement of said reciprocative plunger to thereby produce a controlled flame;

at least one actuator spring contributing a second predetermined force of at least about five pounds to a total force required to operate said thumb actuator; and

whereby said pocket lighter [being] is constructed and arranged such that said total force [at least ten pounds of force are] required to operate said thumb actuator is child resistant, but only a force exceeding said first predetermined force is necessary to cause ignition of said igniter device.

17. (Amended) A pocket lighter as set forth in claim [7] 1, wherein said at least one actuator spring comprises a pair of coaxial helical springs.

18. (Amended) A pocket lighter comprising:
an outer housing having an open end;
a housing end cap configured to be fit into said open end of said outer housing;
a gas container located in said housing, said gas container having an outlet valve through which ignitable gas is released;
an igniter device located in said housing, said igniter device having a reciprocative plunger operative against a first